

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2012 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 13
Kuskokwim River Subdistrict 1-B to open for Commercial Salmon Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence and commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Management Area.

Subdistrict 1-B, within District 1, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 4 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 13, 2012. Salmon may be taken only with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 50 fathoms in length.

Fish processors have verbally agreed to not purchase Chinook salmon harvested during commercial openings. Any Chinook salmon caught must be retained for subsistence or personal use. Fish retained for subsistence or personal use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket.

The hours for subsistence closures adjacent to periods of commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim River are 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing. The area closed to subsistence fishing includes the Subdistrict open to commercial fishing and a buffer area of the adjacent Subdistrict. Therefore, from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 13, subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River will be closed from the upper end of Straight Slough downstream to the mouth, defined by a line from Apokak Slough to the southern-most tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut.

The Chinook salmon Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) Catch Per Unit Effort has been low for the past week and has decreased further in the past three days indicating the majority of the Chinook salmon run has passed through Subdistrict 1-B. Therefore, incidental harvest of Chinook salmon is anticipated to be low. Based on BTF and escapement information to date there is a harvestable surplus of chum and sockeye salmon. During the Working Group meeting on Wednesday, July 11, the Working Group voted to support a 4-hour commercial fishing period in Subdistrict 1-B if BTF Chinook salmon catch remained low. As a result commercial fishing is warranted.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel ADF&G office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this news release:

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